

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 L-03 STR-04 SS-15
NSC-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03
INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02
LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00
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DRAFTED BY ARA/ECP:LPETERS:BB
APPROVED BY ARA/ECP:SROGERS
ARA/CAR:FTUMMINIA (DRAFT)
ARA/CAR:RSURBER (DRAFT)
LA/CAR:JLOCKARD (DRAFT)
AID/FEP:GFRAZIER (DRAFT)
USDA:GPOPE (DRAFT)
EB/OFPP/FFD:SJOHNSON (DRAFT)

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O R 222025Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 171960

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EASID, EASIGN, JM, GY

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PL-480 RICE SALE TO JAMAICA

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 1570, (B) PORT-OF-SPAIN 2071

1. WE APPRECIATE REFTEL REPORTING UNFORTUNATE CONJUNC-
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TION OF EVENTS. WE ARE CHECKING INTO POSSIBILITIES OF
SUBSTITUTION FOR THE RICE COMPONENT OF PROPOSED PL-480
PROGRAM AND WILL ADVISE FURTHER SOONEST. RE PARA 5
REF A, AID HAS AUTHORITY TO FINANCE PURCHASES AGRICUL-
TURAL COMMODITIES FROM THIRD COUNTRIES SUCH AS GUYANA.
HOWEVER, USE OF SUCH AUTHORITY PROHIBITED BY SECTION 604
(E) OF FAA WHEN US DOMESTIC PRICE FOR SAME COMMODITY IS

BELOW PARITY. JUNE PRICES FOR US RICE AVERAGE NEARLY 50 PERCENT BELOW PARITY AND IT THEREFORE NOT POSSIBLE FOR USG TO FINANCE GUYANESE RICE SALES TO JAMAICA.

2. PROPOSED PL-480 PROGRAM FOR JAMAICA NOW INCLUDES WHEAT, CORN, AND VEGOIL COMPONENTS IN ADDITION TO THE RICE COMPONENT.

3. FOR EMBASSY'S INFORMATION, USG HAS NOT YET INITIATED NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAMAICANS ON THE SPECIFIC COMPOSITION

OF THIS PROGRAM. IN VIEW JAMAICAN FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION WE CANNOT ASSURE THAT GOJ WOULD REINSTATE RICE PURCHASES EVEN IF WE CANCELLED RICE PORTION OF TITLE I PROGRAM. WE ALSO NOTE THAT DEVELOPMENT OF JAMAICAN PROGRAM BEGAN IN LATE 1976 AND INCLUSION OF RICE WAS BASED ON THEN AVAILABLE INFORMATION INDICATING THAT GUYANESE MIGHT CONTINUE TO HAVE DIFFICULTY SUPPLYING THE JAMAICAN MARKET BECAUSE OF A PREDICTED POOR RICE CROP.

4. EMBASSY'S RECENT REPORTING ON RICE SITUATION IS APPRECIATED AND WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN MAKING A FINAL DECISION ON THIS ISSUE.

5. FOR KINGSTON: DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON THIS MATTER. VANCE
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Message Attributes

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